

REMARKS

Claims 1-51 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-5, 16-20 and 31-41 stand rejected.

Claims 6-15, 21-30 and 42-51 are objected to.

Objections

The abstract of the disclosure was objected to, due to the use of the term “means”. The abstract has been amended to remove this term, and thus Applicants assert that this objection is overcome.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 16-20 and 31-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Wilford, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,509,006. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

“A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegall Bros. V. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Claim 1 recites: “receiving at least one packet; and disposing of the received at least one packet in response to a walk of a Balanced Hash Table of Access Control List Binary Comparison Trees, the Table encoding an Access Control List.” Applicants have been unable to find a “balanced hash table” that stores “access control list binary comparison trees” in the cited portions of the reference. Accordingly, Applicants assert that the Examiner has not established a proper rejection against claim 1 under § 102(b). For at least the foregoing reasons, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5, 16-20, and 31-41 is requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants assert that claims 6-15, 21-30, and 42-51 depend from patentable base claims. Claims 6-15, 21-30, and 42-51 were objected to as being dependent upon a

rejected base claim, but indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for the thoughtful consideration of these claims. Applicants will rewrite these claims in independent form at a later date, if necessary.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5087.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 5, 2004.

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Respectfully submitted,

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